



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855
Fax (505) 827-2836



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 14, 2005
Immediate Release

Contact: Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director
Phone: (505) 827-0314

UNM Scientist to Discuss Climate Change Impacts to New Mexico **Free October 19 Lecture on Climate Change in the Southwest**

(Albuquerque, NM)- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will host a lecture and question-and-answer session titled "Climate Change: What's in Store For New Mexico?" on Wednesday, October 19 from 8-9 p.m. at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque (2401 12th NW). The lecture will be preceded by an update on Governor Bill Richardson's Climate Change Initiative from 7-8 p.m.

The free lecture will feature Dr. David Gutzler of the University of New Mexico, where he teaches and researches global and regional climate change.

The lecture and public information session are part of Governor Richardson's initiative to combat climate change launched in June through an Executive Order. The order mandates a thorough evaluation of ways to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sets aggressive emission reduction goals and created the New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group with broad industry and environmental representation.

The second meeting of this advisory group will be held the afternoon of October 19. It is made up of approximately 40 representatives including the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), Duke Energy, the New Mexico Farm Bureau, Burlington Resources, the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy, the Navajo Nation and the Municipal League.

Scientists believe that a warmer New Mexico will likely experience:

- A reduction in water supplies
- Shorter and warmer winters, with winter precipitation falling more often as rain
- Premature snowmelts
- Greater water loss due to increased evaporation
- More intense wildfires
- More extreme and frequent weather events, such as drought and floods

For more information, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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